

SENATE RESOLUTION 291

By Harper

A RESOLUTION expressing support for the City of Nashville's bid to host the NCAA Women's Final Four.

WHEREAS, the City of Nashville is respected for its strong sporting environment and identity; and

WHEREAS, this image as a sports city has identified Nashville as a progressive city and has been a key factor in recruiting businesses to the area and has offered alternatives for recreation and enjoyment to its residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, both the City of Nashville and the State of Tennessee have a strong and successful history of women's collegiate basketball; and

WHEREAS, nowhere was this more evident than in the record-setting success of the recent 2008 South Eastern Conference (SEC) Women's Basketball Tournament, which was held in March at the Sommet Center and introduced an economic impact of \$8.5 million to the local community and saw an increased attendance over the 2004 SEC Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Valley Conference and the Nashville Sports Council are partnering to bid on hosting the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Final Four for one year between 2012 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, Nashville is one of thirteen cities in position to submit bids to host the Final Four; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Final Four has served as a catalyst which brings teams, fans, and business partners together to celebrate the game of women's' basketball; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Final Four offers the opportunity to work collaboratively with the NCAA to create positive experiences for its student-athletes, participant institutions, fans, and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Final Four serves as an economic force that can accelerate the development and improvement of local infrastructure, enhance community pride, and generate millions of dollars in economic impact; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Final Four showcases the host city through its media coverage, including full-service coverage on ESPN; and

WHEREAS, Nashville is a new market for the NCAA, as it has never hosted an NCAA event, and serves as an ideal location because its downtown area provides a unique and hospitable environment and destination for teams and visitors; and

WHEREAS, not only does the Women's Final Four bring in the semifinal and final games but also hosts other events which reach out to visitors and locals, such as the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's (WBCA) annual convention, the NCAA Hoop City, the 4KayRun, the Basketball Bounce, the Youth Education through Sports clinics, and the WBCA High School All-America game; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that this Body hereby supports the bid for the City of Nashville to host the NCAA Women's Final Four tournament for one year between 2012 and 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this State will be enthusiastically poised to responsibly and effectively consider the needs and requests of the NCAA in planning a Women's Final Four event held in Nashville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.